

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04887 111401Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSM-05 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02  
SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 /085 W  
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R 111310Z AUG 78  
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TNIS  
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 4887

E. O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPON, MO  
SUBJ: MOROCCAN MEDIA REACTION - VANCE TRIP TO ISRAEL AND EGYPT

1. SUMMARY: CITING MAINLY WIRESERVICE REPORTS, MEDIA  
EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULTY OF THE VANCE MISSION AND  
LABELED "ISRAELI INTRASIGENCE" AS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO  
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CAMP DAVID  
SUMMIT WITH ACTIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION RECEIVED WIDE AND  
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FAVORABLE COVERAGE. COMMUNIST DAILY AL BAYANE CHARACTER-  
IZED THE ENTIRE PEACE PROCESS AS AN EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL  
SOFTENED MANY TIMES BUT STILL UNPALATABLE TO ISRAEL. PRO-  
GOVERNMENT AL MAGHRIB EDITORIALIZED THAT AGREEMENT ON  
A TRIPARITE CONFERENCE WAS A POSITIVE RESULT OF THE  
SECRETARY'S TRIP AND COMING SO SHORTLY BEFORE AMERICAN CONGRESS-  
IONAL ELECTIONS REVEALED CONSIDERATE POLITICAL COURAGE ON THE

PART OF PRESIDENT CATER. END SUMMARY

2. FRENCH-LANGUAGE PRESS WAS RELATIVELY SUBDUED IN ITS SOVERATE OF THE SECRETARY'S MEETING IN ISRAEL. IT DID ALLOW THAT WHATEVER ISRAELI MESSAGE MR. VANCE DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT SADAT WOULD SEEM "INSUFFICIENT" TO THE EGYPTAINS, BUT UNDERScoreD THE POINT THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN STANDS "READY FOR BETTER FLIEXIBILTY". SAME AFP SOURCES STRESSED MR. SADAT'S RELUCTANCE TO ABANDON HIS PEACE INITIATIVE AND CHARACETRIZED THE SECRETARY'S CURRENT TRIP AS INDICATING AMERICAN DETERMINATION TO FACILITATE RESUMPTION OF DIRECT ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS. SPECUALTION DEVELOPED AS A RESULT OF THESE EARLIER STORIES AND DOCUS ON THE NATURE OF FUTURE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE PEACE PROCESS. MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION WERE THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL AMERICAN NEGOTIATOR AND THE CONVENING OF A TRIPRATITE CONFERENCE. NEWS OF THE CAMP DAVID CONFERENCE WIDENED THE SCOPE AND CHANGED THE TONE OF THE TREATMENT GIVEN THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. AL MAGHRIB WHICH HAD EARLIER CARRIED A REUTERS ARTICLE UNDER THE HEADLINE "ISRAEL DICTATES ITS DIPLOMACY TO THE UNITED STATES" EDITORIALIZED THAT PRESIDENT CATER'S DECISION TO SPONOSR THE SUMMIT WAS A COURAGEOUS ACT GIVEN THE POLITICAL REALITY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN NOW UNDERWAY IN THE UNITED STATES. UNCLASSIFIED

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EDITORIAL WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT THE UNITED STATES AS "A FULL ACTION PARTNER" WILL OFFER "ITS OWN VERSION OF A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES", A PROSPECT WHICH IT CLAIMED WOULD VINDICATE ARAB DIPLOMACY. THE SUMMIT, IN THIS LIGHT, WOULD "BECOME A TRAP FOR ISRAEL".

3. THE LOCAL ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS, THROUGHOUT DURATION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, SEEMD MORE INTERESTED IN CALRIFYING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AS A MEDIATOR. AL ALAM, PRESENTLY PRO-GOVERNMENT IN EDITORIAL POLICY, QUOTED THE EGYPTAIN NEWSPAPER AL AHRAH IN SEEKING A SHARPER DEFINITION OF THE AMERICAN POSITION. THE SOCIA-LIST USFP'S AL MUHARRIR APPLAUDED SECRETARY VANCE'S ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS AS "INTERSTING AND CONSTRUCTIVE" BUT SLIGHTLY AMBIGUOUS IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S AUGUST 6 DECLARATION THAT "THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT YET TAKEN ANY DECISION CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST." NEWS OF THE SEPTEMBER 5 CARTER-SADAT-BEGIN MEETING PROMOTED AL MUHARRIR TO ASSIGN SOME OF THE CREDIT FOR THE DECISION TO THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT AND QUOTED HIM AS AGREEING WITH MR. CARTER IN THE QUEST "TO FIND A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE". THE PRO-GOVERNMENT

AL ANBAA PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER AND ASSERTED "OTHER PEACE INITIATIVES HAD BECOME BLOCKED" BUT "THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION REALIZED DECISIVE ACTION WAS REQUIRED TO SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS VEERING PRECARIOUSLY TOWARDS WAR". THE COMMUNIST DAILY AL BAYANE PROVIDED THE SOLE DISSENTING VOICE BY WARNING THAT THE TRIPARTITE FORMULA IS CALCULATED TO ARRANGE "AN AMERICAN PEACE" FOR PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. TELEVISION AND RADIO COVERAGE UNIFORMLY FACTUAL IN PRESENTATION WAS SLIGHT AT THE OUTSET OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT BUT INCREASED NOTICEABLY WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUMMIT CONFERENCE. ANDERSON

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